

## Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-04 OES-06

AID-05 /034 W

-----120857Z 130478 /13

R 111833Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0840

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

UNCLAS MEXICO 3054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,MX

SUBJ: MEDFLY CAMPAIGN

REF: A) MEXICO 2583, B) MEXICO 2812

1. IN VISIT TO CHIAPAS, MARCH 5, PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO WAS BRIEFED ON CONTROL ACTIVITIES AGAINST MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY AS WELL AS THREAT OF INTRODUCTION COFFEE RUST FROM NICARAGUA. ACCORDING TOPRESS REPORT PRESIDENT INFORMED THAT TWELVE FLIES HAD BEEN TRAPPED IN MEXICO AND 1,200 IN COASTAL AREA OF GUATEMALA. MEDFLY CHARACTERIZED AS AMONG WORLD'S TEN WORST AGRICULTURAL PESTS. BRIEFING ALSO STRESSED THREAT TO MEXICO'S IMPORTANT FRUIT AND VEGETABLE EXPORTS.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE, LOPEZ PORTILLO STATED THAT THESE PLAGUES HAD TO BE DEALT WITH THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. IT IS MORE ECONOMICAL TO ATTACK THEM AT THEIR SOURCE RATHER THAN WAITFOR THEM TO ARRIVE IN MEXICO. HE CALLED FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS ON RUST SIMILAR TO THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM UNDERWAY IN GUATEMALA ON MEDFLY.

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3. IN SEPARATE REPORT, PLANT SANITATION OFFICIAL RUIZ,STATED THAT 12,600 BAITED TRAPS HAD BEEN DISPERSED IN MEXICO WITY 6,000 ON THE GUATEMALAN BORDER. BY THE END OF 1977 THEY HOPE TOHAVE 15,000 TRAPS ALONG THE BORDER.  
THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSECT CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Reference:** 77 MEXICO 2583, 77 MEXICO 2812  
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**Review Markings:**  
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